

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 26, 2005. Claims 3 to 20, 23 to 28, 30 and 32 to 42 are pending in the application, with Claims 1, 2, 21, 22 and 31 having been cancelled herein. Claims 3, 5 to 7, 11, 23 to 26, 32 to 35 and 39 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 11 to 20, 26 to 28, 30 and 35 to 42 are allowable.

Applicant also wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 3 to 10, 23 to 25 and 32 to 34 would be allowable if re-written into independent form. Applicant has chosen to re-write Claims 3, 5 to 7, 23 to 25, and 32 to 34 into independent form, while the remaining claims are dependent from one of the newly re-written independent claims.

Claims 1, 2, 21, 22 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,504,774 (Takai). In light of the cancellation of these claims, the rejections are believed to be obviated.

Inasmuch as all claims remaining the application have been indicated as being allowable, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address. -

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'E. Kmett', is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicant
Edward A. Kmett
Registration No. 42,746

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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